



<http://www.nkrs.org.uk/>

Issue 202

NKRS Newsletter

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Our next meeting will be at :
The Hurst Community Centre, Room 3, Hurst Place, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3LH

Date	Event
7nd June 2022	Bring a Thing night See Page 3
21st June 2022	Natter Night
5th July 2022	Talk by Dave subject to be confirmed.

Please note that Meetings are open to all, not just members of the NKRS

John Birkett 1928 – 2022

John Birkett of Lincoln was a long standing member and President of the Lincoln Short Wave Club. He passed away peacefully in the Lincoln County Hospital on the 30th April 2022 aged 93 years.

For many years John was a familiar figure at amateur radio rallies throughout the UK and you did not have to look too far to find his familiar advertisements in the radio magazines.

John opened his shop in 1960 and as far as I am aware it is still open. Products include vintage/military/commercial/amateur radios, wireless and test equipment, aircraft instruments, microphone, amplifiers, speakers and many more useful things.

There was very much more to John than I was aware of and for more information see the Lincoln Short Wave Club site

<https://www.g5fz.co.uk/silent-key/john-birkett-1928-2022/>

Thanks to Dan G6RMA for bringing this to my attention.

See also Page 4 regarding the passing of Eric Hasted G3BHF

Thanks to Kevin G8MLO for sending that information.

War and Peace show 2022

Please note that this years event at the Hop Farm is **Cancelled**

You might want to check out (Thanks to John G8DOG for the information)

[The South East's best annual military show and family fun weekend \(capelmilitaryshow.com\)](http://capelmilitaryshow.com)

The last two meetings by Stephen G8JZT

Although participating members were a little thin on the ground for various reasons, we had a couple of good meetings during May. First, we had a talk by Ian G7PHD on the American Air force in East Anglia. Ian covered a lot of ground during his talk and very interesting it was too. Thank you Ian for your efforts.



Mike, Frank, Ian, Chris and me behind the camera

Our second meeting of the month was a social/natter night however I took along the laptop and projector and played the short video from the RSGB on using the Ofcom/ RSGB EMF calculator spreadsheet which showed a couple of example power/ antenna arrangements and I think it was all agreed by those there that it really is a simple process. I intend to show other topical videos on the social/natter nights and welcome any suggestions from members on subjects they would like to see covered.

The next meeting in June will be "Bring a Thing" so dig out something of interest and talk a little on it.

Look forward to seeing you,
Stephen G8JZT
Secretary

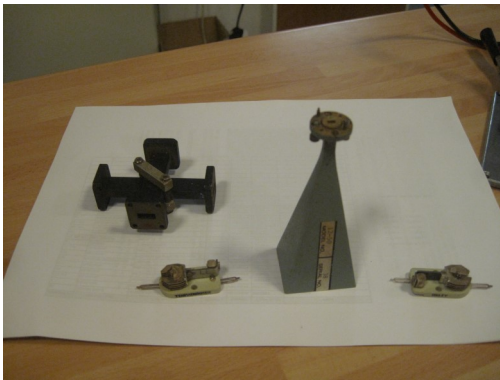
The Next Meeting

As mentioned on the previous page the next meeting is a Bring a Thing night.

These have been very successful in the past and all you need to do is bring something along and perhaps be prepared to say a few words about it.

It can be anything you like and in the past we have had things varying from an astrocompass to a collection of miniature mobile phones. I think though to avoid upsetting the people we rent the meeting place from we had better not bring live animals so Jet , my cat will be staying at home which I think he will prefer.

Below are some photographs of items previously brought at "Things".



Nothing to do with the bring a thing but a new piece of Brick Lane street art

Received from Kevin Packard G8MLO

From my old school social media site, I read that Eric passed away recently on 10th January.

Derek Hasted - son of the late Eric Hasted - has posted the following. Anybody wanting to respond to Derek about his post - his email address is: derek@derek-hasted.co.uk

Thank You from me to everyone who wrote to my Dad (or to me at his address) to express their condolences at his passing. Many had already written a 100th birthday card and covering letter and decided to send those anyway, and that was particularly lovely - so many happy messages took the sting out of his passing just before that milestone. A sizeable proportion of cards came with no address, and it seems only fair to reply this way in the hope that the majority will learn how comforted my wife Pam and I have been to read so many cards and letters. They were all very special.

We are still clearing his house, and our next job is to strip out his study which was both a working Ham Radio station (G3BHF) and a museum to round-pin plugs, home built gizmos with mains power and no case (!) and electronics that is a two-man lift. We don't know at the moment what's there, but if there are Ham radio old boys, I would certainly like them to have first option on anything "shop bought". I also have his station log - do you think any old boy or the school might want it (I don't know if the school has any connection now with the fact it used to broadcast). Derek

For my part, Eric, or Mr Hasted as we of course called him, was my physics and engineering teacher at school. He had a reputation for being a bit fierce but as we progressed through to the sixth form we soon realised that he was a really nice man and thoroughly dedicated to doing his utmost for his students. I remember my 6th form engineering A-level project was a valve grid dip oscillator (using a 12AT7 if I recall).

He also taught the RAE at Erith College and it was here that myself, Don and Andy enrolled on the course, passing the old written exam and becoming G8MLO, G8MLP and G8MLQ respectively.

In his earlier life, Eric was a tank gunner in WW2 and recalls some of his stories here on the web:

http://www.memoriesofwar.org.uk/page_id_171.aspx?path=0p1p3p&fbclid=IwAR09x5l6pm_mYMWQqcqlvGQgpVFSTJoGzDyGNZaZpvSuw3zQjvxTZPI1A8

Fascinating stuff.

A lovely man.

Kevin G0MLO

Friendship on the Air Award

The RSGB is delighted to launch a new award that is designed to celebrate the friendship of amateur radio over the airwaves.

Radio amateurs are encouraged to exchange the four-letter identifier of their club and accumulate points for each qualifying QSO. Through this you can gain the award. However, the main purpose of the award is to contact other people in a friendly and non-competitive way, connecting with them rather than simply making a quick QSO and moving on. If you're not a club member but are a member of the RSGB, you can use the RSGB identifier "RSGB".

This award is part of the RSGB and NHS '[Get on the air to care](#)' campaign which was created at the start of the pandemic in 2020. Its aim has been to support radio amateurs living in social isolation, promote mental wellbeing and raise the profile of amateur radio in the mainstream media to help people looking for something to do during lockdown.

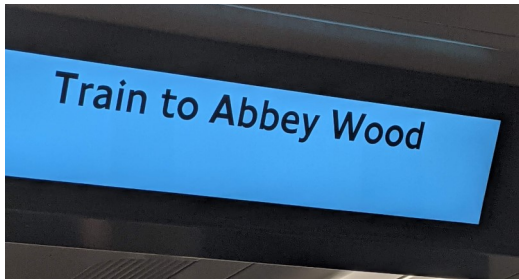
To find out how to take part in the Friendship on the Air Award, visit the RSGB website:

www.rsgb.org/friendship-award

Thanks to Andy Fribbens G8MLQ for forwarding this to me.

Open at last

Well it's been a long time coming and arrived at last. For me it couldn't have arrived at a better time.



After coming off a transatlantic flight, even if you have had a good night sleep, the last thing that you really want to have to do is travel across London on the edge of the rush hour using underground



Overground and all sorts of things in between. When I heard that Crossrail was opening on the day I was arriving back at Heathrow I thought that will be great and indeed it was. The usual long walk from the aircraft through arrivals and baggage and customs took its usual time and eventually I got to the TFL station in Heathrow I then jumped onto the Elizabeth line train an easy transition at Paddington and shortly afterwards arrived at Abbey Wood to be picked up by my wife who hadn't seen me for a month.



The only problem were the crowds of sightseer who had come to see the event. There were huge numbers of station staff, police and TV cameras but I did get a seat with my bags.



The interior of one of the trains running Paddington to Abbey Wood



This photograph was taken in Canary Wharf Crossrail station in 2015. At that time all the above ground work had been completed only platform level was still being worked on,

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Above Left and Centre the Atrium on the roof of Canary Wharf Crossrail station. Don't expect to see it like this as I took this during the winter lights exhibition. However if you are at the station with some time to spare the Atrium is worth a visit. Above Right a colourful piano on one of the lower floors of the station that is there for anyone to play so if you want to practice performing in front of an audience here would be a good place to go.

I had travelled on parts of the line before. The Paddington West Drayton section has been open for some time as has the Shenfield to Liverpool Street portion. We are getting near the end now all they've got to do is link the Abbey Wood to Paddington to Heathrow together and we'll be able to go from Abbey Wood to Heathrow with no trouble at all.

The train themselves are very impressive. Air-conditioned and comfortable even with some forward/rearward facing seats unlike the TFL trains which only have seats down the side.

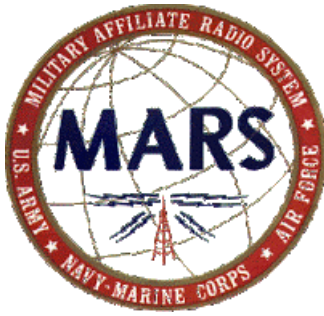
I have subsequently used the line to travel to Liverpool Street. Unfortunately the long walk to the main line platforms meant that I missed my connection. Also travelling back from Whitechapel recently involved a fair bit of walking but what you lose there you gain in rapid transit to a local station. It would be really nice if they can connect the bits up before I do my next flight from Heathrow but if they don't it's not much of a problem.

The Crossrail time line (shortened version)

- 1940's when it was first proposed
- 1970's when it was given its name
- 1980's it was formally suggested
- 1990's failed to make it through Parliament
- 2000's finally confirmed
- 2007 The project was approved
- 2009 Construction begins
- 2012 optimistically thought it might be open in time for the London Olympics
- 2017 May - Introduction of new rolling stock on Great Eastern – start of 'Crossrail'
- 2018 February Crossrail admits to design flaw after two track side voltage transformers explode on energisation, delaying dynamic testing
- 2018 February First class 345 train travelled from Abbey Wood to Connaught Tunnel
- 2018 March Crossrail comes up with "revised delivery schedule" to save December opening date
- 2018 May Heathrow to Paddington – surface Dec 2018 – Trains run through Central Section
- 2018 August Crossrail Limited confirms one year delay, with central section between Paddington and Abbey Wood to open in autumn 2019
- 2019 May - Central Section passenger service connected to Great Eastern Surface Section
- 2022 May Finally opens Paddington to Abbey Wood**
- 2023 The full east to west service is due to open ???

The Elizabeth line is operated by MTR UK which is a subsidiary of MTR. MTR was established in 1972 in Hong Kong.

Military Auxiliary Radio System



The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is a United States Department of Defence sponsored program, established as a separately managed and operated program by the United States Army, and the United States Air Force. The United States Navy-Marine Corps program closed in 2015. The program is a civilian auxiliary consisting primarily of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in assisting the military with communications on a regional and national level when access to traditional forms of communication may no longer be available. The MARS programs also include active duty, reserve, and National Guard units; and Navy, Marine Corps units.

From Wikipedia

Those of you who were active on HF during the Vietnam war doubtless would have heard the many phone patch operations connecting the troops with their families back home. It is possible that many think that the service ended at the end of that war but it is still active.

The Army phone patch program in Vietnam started with six stations and was completed in 1969, with 47 MARS stations in seven nets that conducted more than 42,000 phone patches each month.

Developments of radio during WW1 made the US military recognise that radio was an important mode of communications. In 1925 the **A**uxiliary **A**mateur **R**adio **S**ystem (AARS) was created.

The concept was to provide a pool of trained radio operators to augment the Signal Corps during mobilization in time of war and provide an extension of the Signal Corps' radio network to support civil authority with natural disaster relief efforts. When you want some good operators, many well experienced and at no cost where do you find them? You look to amateur radio operators.

Move on to 1948 and Captain Robert L. Gabardy (K4TJ) selected the use of the acronym MARS, the Roman god of war, as a fitting name for the post-World War II re-birth of the AARS as the Military Amateur Radio System. In 1952 the program's name was changed to the Military Affiliate Radio System. In 2009 the name was changed again to the current Military Auxiliary Radio System.

In the 50's and 60's the military call sign of the Army MARS station was WAR, and its FCC call sign for the amateur bands was K4USA. The Air Force MARS call sign was AIR, with an amateur radio call sign of K4AF.

The Military Auxiliary Radio System continues to be active today. Its primarily to provide contingency communications to the Department of Defence and Military Services.

Satellite Phones make the traditional Radio Phone Patch redundant and land and sea-based MARS stations have been dismantled. However, modern military aircraft are still equipped with HF radios, and many military aircrews still use MARS Phone Patches as a backup or substitute to Satellite Communications. The USAF MARS Phone Patch Net provides 24/7 HF Radio Phone Patch service to all branches of United States military aircraft worldwide.

If you want to listen to military aircraft voice traffic check out the primary frequencies used by the MARS phone patch network.

13.9271 MHz and 20.9921 MHz. For a more extensive list of frequencies use the link below

[Military Auxiliary Radio System Frequencies](#)

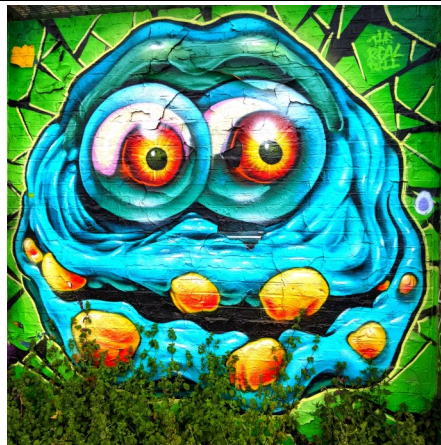
Odds and Ends



Left a feathered friend enjoying the sunrise at Lake Front Park Centre an espresso martini
Right some interesting coffee I saw in a supermarket but decided not to buy



Left Sunrise at East Lake Toho
Right 2 Cranes with their baby silhouetted by the rising sun



Left Kissimmee street art Right this fellow supervises you walking along the River Lee

That's all for this issue I hope to see you at the meeting
Stay Safe